

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

- 1-5 Cancelled
6. (Original) A method of surgery using a bone morphogenic inducing protein which minimizes unintended post-surgical bone growth, the method comprising:
- resecting a posterior lateral herniation in a spinal disk annulus;
  - forming an opening in the annulus in a posterior lateral location;
  - introducing bone morphogenic protein (BMP) into the opening;
  - sealing the opening with a biocompatible seal wherein the seal is positioned to cover the opening so as to inhibit leakage of the BMP into surrounding tissue.
7. (Original) The method of Claim 6 wherein the seal is substantially pliable.
8. (Original) The method of Claim 6 wherein sealing the opening includes positioning a protruding portion of the seal into the opening.
9. (Original) The method of Claim 6 further comprising affixing the seal in place.
10. (Original) The method of Claim 6 wherein is positioned so that at least a portion of the seal is received into the opening.
11. (Original) The method of Claim 6 wherein the seal includes a radiopaque material.
12. (Original) The method of Claim 6 wherein the seal is prepared in a color that contrasts with the colors of the viscera and skeletal tissue.
- 13-17 Cancelled